Education for female children

5463. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 200 million female children, only 120 million are attending the schools; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The estimated number of girls in the year 1999 in the age group 6—14 years, based on population projection made by the Registrar General of India on the 1991 Census population is only 9.23 crores. The number of girls enrolled in classes I—VIII, based on Selected Educational Statistics 1999-2000, brought out by the Ministry, is 6.65 crores.

(b) The Government has launched, in November, 2000, the Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in a mission mode to provide education of satisfactory quality to all children, specially girls, in the age group of 6—14 years by 2010.

The objectives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are as follows:—

- — All children in the age group of 6—14 to be in School/Education Guarantee Centre/Alternate School/'Back to School' camp by 2003;
- — All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007;
- — All chidren complete eight years of schooling by 2010;
- — Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;
- — Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010;
- — Universal retention by 2010.

Teacher-student ratio in schools

5464. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the teacher-student ratio in the country, especially in Government schools;

(b) whether Government would review the ratio, to ensure more teachers for students to improve the standards of education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the total literacy in the country would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) As per Selected Educational Statistics, a publication of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the teacher-students ratio as on 30.9.1999 in the country in Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary schools is 1:43, 1:38, 1:30 and1:34 respectively.

(b) and (c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), funds are provided to States/UTs to meet the norm fixed in respect of teacher-students ratio i.e. one teacher for every 40 children subject to a minimum of 2 teachers per primary school and at least one teacher per class in upper primary schools. At present, there is no proposal to revise the same.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims at attaining full literacy i.e. a sustainable thresholdlevel of 75% by 2005.

Controversial Transfers in NCERT

5465. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item, "NCERT transfers kick up a controversy" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd April, 2002;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to cancel the transfers made, as per press reports, on extraneous considerations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per regulation 47 of the NCERT, all employees of the council are liable for transfer to any of the council's establishment anywhere in